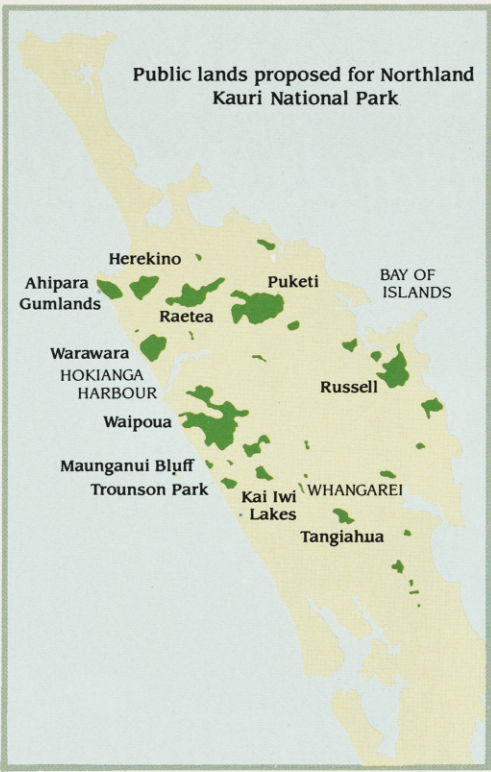


vades the lands and forests of Tai Tokerau.

Nevertheless economic pressures are as strong on Maori tribal lands as they are on pakeha forests. Now the Crown forests are no longer available for milling, kauri timber prices have risen to levels unforeseen in the days when forests were poorly harvested and even burned. With bleak financial prospects both Maori and Pakeha farmers are being pressured to let the rights to cut kauri from their lands. The increase in private milling rights makes the preservation of what remains in state hands perhaps the only chance for the kauri.

Local government and business too will be interested closely in a park proposal, with its tourist potential and its impact on employment and services. Conservation groups and other community interests will be canvassed. Already the national bodies of Federated Mountain Clubs, Native Forests Action Council and Forest and Bird have given support for a national park. Their areas to date, however, are not as far ranging as the board's Northland-wide proposal. The Department of Conservation in Kaikohe will be drawing these interests together in compiling their report on the possibilities. At the same time the head office of the department, along with the National Parks Authority, has been asked to support the investigation, speeding up the process towards a Section 8 investigation — and this is the stage when the National Park Authority instructs the Department of Conservation to complete a further official investigation so it can recommend a park to the Government.



**Slow Process**

Making national parks can be a slow process: 14 years for the Whanganui; 12 years for the Paparoa. There is plenty of time for people to oppose it. Sometimes a park can be nibbled away while its supporters wait. Paparoa, created in 1987, protects only the fringe of the original Paparoa park proposal, while the Red Hills dropped off the edge of Mt Aspiring National Park and

proved difficult to add in later.

That is why the kauri national park proposal has begun with the broadest possible base. It is easy to erode an area of land; practically impossible to extend it once the investigation gets underway.

It is possible to see this "preliminary investigation" as a technique to spread out the process and negotiations. More positively, however, it represents a new approach in establishing parks and reserves — early consultation to speed the later stages of investigation. Desirably it will identify misgivings, and gather support, while clarifying the proposal.

Such a "theme" park, covering several forests, involves a degree of lateral thinking in national park terms. Yet to argue that a national park must be wholly contiguous is to condemn the kauri for surviving only in "islands", albeit often of national park dimensions. Interpreted and managed as one, the forests of the region should give a higher profile to wild places of the north. The park should become a place of some local pride and a further attraction to tourists exploring the north. By managing the forests as one, park authorities could give absolute protection to the most sensitive corners while encouraging people to enjoy the kauri experience in all suitable places.

Some people have argued that the remnant kauri forests have been so far whittled away that they no longer have the integrity befitting the title "National Park". Visit these forests, however, and you may agree that such "last remnants" deserve the maximum status and protection.✈

# New Zealand's Kauri Heritage

As part of our campaign to promote a Kauri National Park, Forest & Bird is publishing a special Kauri Heritage calendar for 1989. Scenes will include some of the well known kauri trees, the lush understory of typical kauri forest, Little Barrier Island and special plants and animals of the kauri forest.

- The 1989 calendar will be extra large with a grid to write plenty of appointments etc in.
- Photographers include Ian MacDonald, Brian Enting, Hugh Best.
- Each month will include the months before and after.

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	10	11	5
	17	18	12
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